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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

HACSM
900 Chestnut St
Highland, IL 62249

Ms. Kathryn J. Olson
Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Northgrove Dialysis (Proj. No. 17-049)

Dear Ms. Olson:

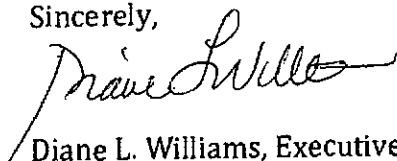
Highland Area Christian Service Ministry is a resource for many members of the community. Primarily a food pantry, our agency has grown to become a social service agency providing assistance with food stamp, medical and LIHEAP applications as well as emergency rent and utility assistance. We offer Easter, School Supplies, and Christmas programs as well as counseling referrals. Approximately 650 households register each year. Our current client base is predominately older adults living in single person households. Like many other small communities in Illinois, many of these older clients need ongoing access to health care services.

We have a new hospital in Highland, and one area of treatment that is becoming increasingly important for some of our citizens – particularly our seniors and chronically ill residents – is kidney care services. We have a provider that is willing to bring these services to our community with the establishment of a small dialysis clinic: Northgrove Dialysis.

Establishing a dialysis center in Highland would make treatment more convenient for Highland residents. Often the travel time and treatment make for long fatiguing days for the patients. Since dialysis is a three day per week process, patients who use HACSM's food pantry miss the distributions days on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, which impacts their lives significantly. Having a facility in Highland would simplify the lives of those dealing with this chronic condition.

We support DaVita in its efforts to bring this service to Highland and I ask that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board approve the proposed clinic.

Sincerely,



Diane L. Williams, Executive Director